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PUBLICATIONS.

Elements of Mineralogy, Crystallography and Blowpipe Analysis, from a Practical Standpoint. . By ALFRED J. MOSES and CHARLES L. PARSONS. 342 pp., 336 cuts, 1895.

The object of this book as stated in the preface is to present in a clear, concise and scientific manner, the nature and uses of minerals and the method for ready and rapid identification.

The regular arrangement of the mineral characters renders it a valuable reference book for one who has but a slight knowledge of the subject, enabling one to turn quickly to the portion he may at any time wish to know, whether this be the physical or chemical properties or blowpipe tests or uses. This is one of the very commendable features of the book, for it is often convenient to turn to these important characters quickly without looking through many pages of detailed description. The book is divided into four parts of which the first treats of the laws, nomenclature and systems of crystallography, and is illustrated by numerous figures. The use of the term *group* as synonymous with *system* is perhaps to be questioned, for while the crystallographic system comprises all forms referable to the same axes, the term group comprises all systems whose forms possess the same number of principal planes of symmetry.

Part II. is a concise treatment of the methods of blowpipe analysis. The chapters on useful tests with the blowpipe, alphabetically arranged, and on qualitative schemes for such analysis will be of special interest to students of mineralogy as affording a quick method of determination.

Part III. is devoted to descriptive mineralogy. While one of the very distinctive and admirable qualities of this book as a practical guide is its conciseness of statement, this feature in the opening chapter of the third part has been carried too far for clearness. The definition of phosphorescence is too comprehensive and for fluorescence is too limited. A student would be apt to confuse the ideas of cleavage and gliding on account of the very brief statement of gliding placed in the section on cleavage. The main portion of this part and over

one-half of the book is devoted to descriptions of the various minerals. The economic importance of the minerals is clearly pointed out, then the composition and general description is given, followed by the physical characters, action before the blowpipe, and similar species noted. A list of important localities is also added. The important minerals are printed in ordinary type, while less important ones are printed in small type, thus assisting in the study and reference. The third part of the work will prove of great service to students who wish to acquire a practical knowledge of minerals in a short time, since they are apt to be confused by the mass of detail in the larger works.

Part IV. is entitled determinative mineralogy and contains tables for rapid determination of the common minerals. There are four of these tables, the first containing minerals of metallic or sub-metallic lustre, the second with blowpipe confirmations of the same; the third containing minerals without metallic lustre and their blowpipe tests, and the fourth with the physical characters as confirmation of the minerals of non-metallic lustre.

G. PERRY GRIMSLEY.

Memoir of Sir Andrew Crombie Ramsay. By SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE Pp. 397. Macmillan & Co. Price, \$4.00.

The biography of so distinguished a scientist as Sir Andrew Crombie Ramsay prepared by so appreciative a friend and so charming a writer as Sir Archibald Geikie could hardly fail to be of interest to geologists and geographers. The author has succeeded admirably in making the geniality and enthusiasm of Sir Andrew apparent, as well as in setting forth the distinguished service which he rendered to the science of geology. The memoir is much more than a mere biography. Sir Andrew was intimately connected with the geological survey of Great Britain for forty years, and an account of his work and of his influence, such as this memoir presents, involves a sketch of the history of the geological survey of the United Kingdom. Not only this, but Sir Andrew's connection with the survey brought him into such intimate relations with other geologists of his own and foreign lands, that his biographer has found it easy to weave into the memoir much general information concerning geologists and geological progress during the period of Sir Andrew's activity.

Portraits of a dozen of Sir Andrew's associates have been introduced into the memoir. These portraits are an attractive feature of the vol-